

ELLESMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Miss Joanne Butterworth
Town Clerk & RFO
1-3 Willow Street
Ellesmere
Shropshire
SY12 0AL



Tel: 01691 622689

Jo.butterworth@ellesmere-tc.gov.uk

Ellesmere Town Council Community Engagement Strategy

Adopted on: Monday, 3rd July, 2017

Introduction

Ellesmere Town Council was formed on the 1st April, 1974 upon the abolishment of urban parishes, boroughs and urban districts. It was at the first meeting of Ellesmere Town Council that members agreed to elect a Town Mayor and not a Chairman. The first Town Mayor to be elected was Mr G Pritchard.

Meetings have been held in the Town Hall in Willow Street since 1966 and were previously held in the Old Town Hall, which was bought from the Bridgewater Estate by a local trust in 1928.

The Town Council has twelve members. The Town Council meet on the first Monday of every month apart from when there is a Bank Holiday when a date will be agreed and re-scheduled. The Town Council break for summer recess for the month of August when there will be no monthly meeting.

Since 2003 Ellesmere Town Council nominated an Honorary Townsperson which has since been renamed Honorary Freewoman/Freeman in 2010.

Ellesmere has a primary school and secondary school within the town boundary. The Town Council is situated within the community and is the first point of contact for local people. Shropshire Council is the Unitary Authority for the area.

Ellesmere is a beautiful market town nestled in the Shropshire countryside and owes its existence to the Mere (Anglo Saxon for 'lake') as it was used as a defence in ancient times. Ellesmere dates back to at least Anglo Saxon times and boasts numerous Georgian and half-timbered buildings surrounding the medieval streets. Regular markets have been held in Ellesmere since 1221 when the first Market Charter was granted by Henry III. Ellesmere prides itself on its individual and independent shops, as well as the famous Mere and Llangollen Canal; the latter was designed and created by Thomas Telford.

Aims

Ellesmere Town Council will continue to engage with residents to encourage them to have their say and to participate in decision making to secure and improve services for the community.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is about giving local people a voice and involving them in decisions that affect them, their community and their neighbourhood. This might involve communities in the planning, development and management of services and can include individuals, voluntary and community organizations as well as other public sector bodies, working together to address local issues. At the heart of community engagement is the development of relationships, open and clear communication, networking and listening and building understanding of the diverse people and places within our Town. This will enable us to deliver improved, accessible services that meet local needs as well as increased satisfaction, improved efficiency and enhanced community leadership.

Ellesmere Town Council will work in conjunction with Shropshire Council within the bounds of their Community Strategy to ensure that all individuals and organizations within the Town are involved in the decisions that affect them.

Ellesmere Town Council will encourage organizations and individuals to contribute and help the Town Council to influence services and to strengthen, develop and sustain opportunities for local people and groups and to influence what happens in this Town. There is a wide range of organizations including youth groups, scouts, church based groups, Women's Institute, Senior Citizen's groups, Chamber of Commerce, Swan Mere Day Centre and the Age Concern Day Centre based within the Town and the Town Council intends to proactively engage with them all.

Ellesmere Town Council considers that all communities deserve high quality public services shaped around their needs and will strive to create an improved quality of life by working with people and partners to achieve satisfaction for all.

Following the completion of the Place Plan, which residents of the town helped to produce to highlight their vision for the future, the Town Council will continue to work with Shropshire Council to meet the aims and objectives outlined in the Plan.

The Town Council welcome electors' comments/suggestions and allows 10 minutes at the start of every monthly Town Council meeting for questions.

The Town Council will continue to work closely with the local Safer Neighbourhood Police Team, the local schools to ensure that their needs are met.

Information Points

The Town Council has sited notice boards at the following locations:

The Town Hall, 1-3 Willow Street, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 0AL

The Town Council website: www.ellesmere-tc.gov.uk and agendas and minutes of meetings appear regularly.

Partnerships

The Town Council enjoys strong partnerships with the local police and various community groups within the town.

The Town Council will continue to raise local issues with the relevant authorities.